Country: **People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Committee: United Nation’s Chıldren’s Fund (UNICEF)

Topic: child marriage

 Delegate:Duygu Aden Evren

Bangladesh officially the People’s Republic of Bangladesh is a country in South Asia. It’s the eighth-most populous country in the world, with populations exceeding 162 million people. It borders Myanmar and India. Bangladesh means “Land of Bengal” and the official language is Bengali. 89% of the population is Muslim and their official religion is Islam but the rest are Hindu and Buddhist. Dhaka is the capital of Bangladesh. Other major cities are Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi… These metropolitan cities elect a mayor while other municipalities elect members. President and members are elected for five-year terms. Bangladesh’s population density ranges from 290-770 people per square kilometer. 90% of the population lives in villages and 10% in cities but it’s one of the countries with the lowest literacy rate in the world. 33.1% of the population can read or write. There are generally no primary schools in their villages

After giving some information about the country, ı want to address some problems. As ı mentioned earlier, Bangladesh is a country with many problems such as child marriage, child deaths due to high poverty level, climate changes (this makes it very difficult for students to go to schools that are already small in number in the country), refugee problems, etc. But all of these are connected to children. Now we’ll examine these problems but personally ı think the first problem that needs to be solved is the literacy rate. For now, UNICEF calls for accelerated by 2030. Despite significant progress in recent years, Bangladesh has the highest prevalence of child marriage in South Asia and ranks among 10 countries in the world with the highest levels. Every year, approximately 12 million girls are married before the age of 18. It has undoubtedly numberless negative effects on girls; they are being kept away from their education rights, suffering from psychological and mental health problems, carrying out physical problems that happen during and after pregnancy, the burden of getting married before reaching adulthood, and enough matureness. These may end up for girls to attempt suicide, look for ways to end their lives or harm themselves around the world. Although child marriage in Bangladesh has declined with UNICEF's work, the current pandemic has led to many negative situations. At this point, I would like to share with you an article that UNICEF has just published: “ Pandemic-induced poverty up child marriage – reported cases of child marriage received by the Child Helpline 1098 increase “The helpline is supported by UNICEF as a part of larger child protection system strengthening program and operates under the Department of Social Services of the Government of Bangladesh. Finally, I want to share a current case with you. Thus, the impact of the pandemic on child marriages and we'll be able to look at UNICEF's work in Bangladesh (you can find this article on the UNICEF in the site and do a detailed review ) “On June 4, 2020, the Child Helpline 1098 phone rang. At the other end of the line was a desperate 16-year-old girl, Labonno (not her real name), from Cumilla district, beseeching the child helpline staff to rescue her from an impending child marriage. With a trembling voice, she informed the child helpline that the local villagers tried to stop her marriage but failed, which propelled her to seek the helpline team’s support. Later, with the coordinated efforts of the Executive Officer, the social services officer, and the local chairman, the wedding bid was foiled, and they counseled Labonno’s father on the drawbacks of child marriage. In the end, Labonno’s father signed an agreement promising that he will not get his daughter married off until she reaches 18 years of age. He also said that he would try to continue Labonno’s education, and the social services officer promised to support her education in all ways possible. According to findings from the 2019 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics with the support of UNICEF, child marriage remains widely accepted with 51.4 percent of women aged 20-24 years first married before their 18th birthday, and 15.5 percent of women first married before their 15th birthday. The high rate of child marriage continues to cast a negative spell on the educational and physical wellbeing of girl children in Bangladesh, inhibiting their potential for future growth.

after all these examples, it seems clear that education is the most important factor affecting the fate of a country and millions of people